



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was mostly steady, slightly better in the West. Retail and food service demand was slow to moderate, but fairly good for ads, fast food, and into restaurants. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate and frequently limited to immediate needs. Supplies of all items were adequate to more available with tenders and thigh meat close balanced and moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were irregular.

Final report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 2/23/04-02/27/04 (cents per lb)

AREAS	US GRADE A (Includes branded product)			COMPOSITE	
	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	LOADS	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers					
Bos/New Eng	73.00-77.00	75.00	16	73.73	48
Chicago	69.00-72.00	72.28	37	74.99	72
Ohio Cities	TFEWR	—	—	73.71	25
Denver	76.50	76.37	15	76.68	18
Detroit	71.00-73.00	73.62	13	75.02	45
Los Angeles	77.00	77.47	57	76.86	144
New York	76.00-78.00	76.36	25	72.92	62
Philadelphia	75.50-77.00	76.15	13	73.98	25
Pittsburgh	76.00-78.00	76.88	13	74.01	55
St. Louis	72.00	71.68	23	70.53	47
San Francisco	77.50	78.41	33	81.51	75

Composite Weighted Average

Loads	02/23/04	Change/Last Wk	02/16/04	02/24/03
616	75.09	0.58	74.51	60.38

WOG BROILERS (without giblets) - prices paid per lb delv'd to first receivers in trucklot and less than trucklot quantities.

REGIONS	MAJORITY	WTD AV	LOADS
East	75.00-78.00	76.73	34
Central	70.00-77.50	76.47	72
West	76.00-81.00	78.18	45

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	70.00-73.00	71.99	82
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 72.00cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

LOADS	RANGE	MONDAY FINAL WTD AVG FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT
1,033	66.00-75.00	71.34

The Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed final weighted average prices on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD AVG (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POU)
LINE RUN TENDERS	218.00	1,431
BREASTS - B/S	192.50	5,636
BREASTS - WHOLE	99.50	1,907
THIGH MEAT - B/S	120.50	1,053
LEG QUARTERS	39.50	8,260
WINGS	121.50	2,997

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally slow to no better than fair entering the week. Offerings were generally more than sufficient for trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was light to fair at best. The market tone was no better than steady. In the parts complex, breast items and wings were adequate to available. Dark meat items were available.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand following the weekend was light to moderate with mixed trading. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair with all items available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Final majority prices were unchanged from last week's levels. Trading reported for this week delivery at unchanged prices on whole body and WOGs were at unchanged to higher prices. Trade sentiment about steady. Offerings were adequate. Buying activity was moderate. Retailer demand was moderate overall best to cover features planned or in progress. Dealers reported moderate weekend carryovers. Reported trading on parts for this week's delivery: leg quarters 40-43.5 bulk and 4/10s 43.5-47, breast bone-in 102-107.5 and boneless 176-185, wings 126-127. The Los Angeles negotiated WOG weighted average was 76.34 up 2.05 from last week's level and the volume reported at 28 loads unchanged.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYER Final majority prices were unchanged; Ohio cities TFEWR from last Monday's final. The market tone on whole broilers was mostly steady. Offerings, though limited were sufficient for very light trade needs. Demand into retail and food service channels was generally light and spotty; occasionally fairly good into some retail, fast food and restaurants. Floor stocks were in balance to long. Weights desirable to slightly heavy. Supplies of all parts were in close balance to adequate. The market tone was fully steady to firm on all parts.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally slow. Seller offerings were more than sufficient for current inquiry. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 77 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was steady at best. In the parts complex, tenders continued to clear well. Wings were in good balance at some plants, available elsewhere. Boneless/skinless breasts were fully adequate. Leg items were readily available and difficult to clear.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A	
RANGE	75-88
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	80.71
NO. OF BOXES	6,248

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was fair at best entering the week as dealers were generally cautious and limiting orders to immediate needs. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were available. Bone-in breasts and wings were sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate with leg quarters and drums noted as slightly more available. B/S thigh meat continued to clear well. Retail and distributive movement was light to fair with limited features noted. The market tone was barely steady on boneless-skinless breasts and leg quarters and steady to fully steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING	WTD AVG	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	185	181.52	531,120
TENDERLOINS	190-195	185.23	89,920
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	102.66	135,480
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	97.61	111,400
LEGS	47-48	52.02	345,560
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	37.59	381,070
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	46.75	160,720
THIGHS	41-42	49.59	66,760
B/S THIGHS	115-116	115.04	74,560
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	121.77	160,880
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.99	31,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	37.93	7,720
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	68.55	18,792

INCLUDES NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, AND PENNSYLVANIA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ARKANSAS BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	LBS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WT. AVG
BREAST - B/S	1,728	176.00-204.00	180-188	183.08
TENDERLOINS	427	189.00-227.00	189-199	195.12
BREAST - WITH RIBS		TFEWR		
FRONT HALVES	223	89.00-97.00	92-97	92.97
LEGS		TFEWR		
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	985	36.00-39.00	36	36.37
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	2,487	37.00-39.00	38-39	38.50
WINGS (WHOLE)		TFEWR		
DRUMSTICKS		TFEWR		
THIGHS	1,264	32.00-48.00	45-47	46.78

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	02/23	02/19	02/19	02/16	02/12
ALA	3,954	3,863	5.14	3,419	5.14
ARK	5,404	5,155	4.96	5,185	4.97
DELMARVA	2,226	2,198	5.34	2,173	5.32
KY-LA-TN	1,988	1,938	5.00	1,887	4.94
MISS	3,113	3,048	5.32	2,982	5.31
NC	2,414	2,359	6.25	1,636	6.22
TEXAS	1,979	2,268	5.09	2,323	5.04
TOTAL	21,078	20,829	5.25	19,605	5.15
MON	21,078(A)			19,605(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 23-Feb 2004 is estimated to be 31,535,000 up 7.19 percent from a week ago and up 7.14 percent from a year ago. (Last week 29,419,000 last year 29,433,000)

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	890	178.00-260.00	182-185	184.24
TENDERLOINS	231	194.00-239.00	194-196	199.54
BREAST - LINE RUN	89	96.00-101.00	96-99	97.93
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
LEGS	103	53.00-58.00	53-56	55.72
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	777	35.00-39.00	36-37	36.57
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	38.00-43.00	38-40	39.80
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76
WINGS (CUT)	456	132.00-142.00	134-137	136.37
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2004 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
65.00 - 72.00	69.25	69.08

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYER ICE-PACKED POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES DELIVERED TO: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, AND WI WEEK OF FEB-23-27-2004

CENTS PER POUND	Price Per Lb.	Mostly
BREAST - B/S	178.00 - 195.00	178.00 - 188.00
BREAST - LINE RUN	96.00 - 111.00	96.00 - 101.00
LEGS	40.00 - 60.00	-
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	36.00 - 44.00	38.00 - 39.00
DRUMSTICKS	40.00 - 55.00	-
THIGHS	48.00 - 55.00	-
WINGS (WHOLE)	118.00 - 125.00	118.00 - 121.00
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	12.00 - 20.00	-
LIVERS	30.00 - 41.00	-
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	35.00 - 45.00	-

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
WOGS 2# & UP - WHOLE	89
WOGS 2# & UP - CUT UP 8&9 PIECES	92-96

FROZEN HENS 5# & UP
FROZEN DUCKS

FROZEN SQUABS 585-600

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA)

FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105

HENS UNDER 5#
HENS OVER 5# 71-77

DUCKS
RABBITS-WHOLE
RABBITS-CUT UP

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK 104-106
	ICE PACK 102-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK 105
	ICE PACK 109
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 93
	DRY PACK 93-95
DUCKS	152-175

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

20-FEB-2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	13.50-17.50	15.00	1,106,000	678,000
WTD AVERAGE	15.29	15.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	15.50-20.00	12.50-19.00	2,200,000	1,248,000
WTD AVERAGE	17.18	14.33		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	12.00	160,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		12.00		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings were generally adequate. Processing schedules normal to instances heavy. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 23-FEB-04

	RANGE CENTS/LB.	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9.5	8.5-9	8.76
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

20-FEB-2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	13.00-15.00	140,200	-
WTD AVERAGE		13.40		
15-20%				
RANGE	12.50-15.00	11.00-14.00	2,120,800	846,400
WTD AVERAGE	13.85	12.04		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	12.50-13.00	81,600	-
WTD AVERAGE		12.75		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Negotiations were generally unchanged compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 23-FEB-04

	RANGE CENTS/LB.	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	5.5-11.75	8.5-9.25	8.86

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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